

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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O 290056Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 109560

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MPOL

SUBJECT:NATO LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM
REF: USNATO 4268 DTG 261709Z APR 78

1. WE NOTE THAT CURRENT DRAFT OF LTDP IS SPECKLED WITH
MINOR ITALIAN RESERVATIONS, LARGELY, WE BELIEVE, BECAUSE
ROME HAS NOT YET FOCUSSED SERIOUSLY ON THEM. HOWEVER, WE
ARE ENCOURAGED BY HOPE ITALIANS HAVE EXPRESSED (PARA 1
REFTEL) THAT THEY WOULD BE REMOVED.

2. SUGGEST USNATO CONTACT CATALANO TO URGE HE PURSUE THIS
MATTER AS SHOW OF ALLIANCE SOLIDARITY, POINTING OUT
THAT OUR INFORMATION IS THAT MANY OTHER ALLIED FOOTNOTES
WILL BE DROPPED FOR SOLIDARITY'S SAKE, INCLUDING SOME OF
OUR OWN. IN ADDITION, USNATO EARLY IN EWG MEETING OF
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MAY 2 SHOULD ENCOURAGE NATIONS TO ELIMINATE ALL BUT THE
MOST SUBSTANTIVE OF THEIR FOOTNOTES AND RESERVATIONS.

3. WE REQUEST EMBASSY ROME, AFTER EWG MEETING MAY 2, MAKE
SIMILAR APPROACH TO FONOFF ON ANY REMAINING ITALIAN
FOOTNOTES.

4. WE RECOGNIZE ITALIAN FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. WE BELIEVE
THAT, IF ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, GOI COULD INSERT ONE
GENERAL RESERVATION SAYING IT WOULD ACCEPT LTDP MEASURES

BUT MIGHT BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT SOME OF THEM ONLY TO A
LIMITED EXTENT UNTIL ITS FINANCIAL PICTURE HAS IMPROVED.
FYI: WE GRANT THAT SOME OTHER ALLIES SUCH AS DANES,
NORWEGIANS, PORTUGUESE, TURKS MIGHT TAKE SIMILAR
RESERVATIONS. WE ARE CONSIDERING SIMILAR APPROACHES TO
OTHER NATIONS THAT MAY RETAIN MORE THAN A MINIMUM NUMBER
OF FOOTNOTES OR RESERVATIONS. END FYI.

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